

Title of Lesson: The Civil War at Home

(Suggested grade level: 10th U.S. History I or 11th A.P. U. S. History)

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Background Information:

Background information for teacher: The American Civil War is one of the most important events in American history. Often as teachers, we are focused on the national picture or the most famous of the leaders and fighters in this conflict. While both are valid topics, it's also important to help students identify the struggles of everyday people during the war, because war does not just affect the soldiers – war can impact civilians not directly involved in the battles. (It is assumed that teachers have a basic knowledge of the Civil War, however, this article, the [Civil War in Alabama](#), located on the [Encyclopedia of Alabama](#) website can provide information pertinent to Alabama's role during the war years.)


Overview of lesson: Using primary sources, students will investigate the lives of ordinary Alabama citizens during the Civil War and relate home front events to battle events.

Content Standards

[Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies](#) (Bulletin 2004, No. 18)

Grade 10, Content Standard 10

Describe how the course, character, and effects of the Civil War influenced the United States.

- Describing the impact of the division of the nation during the Civil War on resources, population, and transportation
- Discussing nonmilitary events and life during the Civil War
- Explaining causes of the military defeat of the Confederacy
- Explaining Alabama's involvement in the Civil War 

[National Standards for History, 1996](#)

[Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction](#)

Standard 2B: The student understands the social experience of the war on the battlefield and home front

[National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies](#), (Bulletin 111, 2010)

Standard 5: Individuals, Groups, and Institutions

Primary Learning Objective(s):

Analysis and evaluation of primary source documents (personal letters)

Additional Learning Objective(s):

Creation and combination of timelines showing national, state, and individual events of the Civil War era.

Time allotted: One (1) 90 minute block or two (2) 45 minute classes

Materials and Equipment:

- Copy paper
- Rulers
- Colored pencils/crayons/markers
- Long strip of butcher paper with a timeline spanning the years 1860 – 1866 drawn on it
- Removable adhesive notes, such as *Post Its* or *Sticky Notes* (or small squares of paper and tape), in three (3) different colors (These will be referred to as ***Student Notes*** in the body of the lesson.)

(For those who would like to integrate a technological component in this assignment, timeline software may be located and utilized. [LifeSnapz](#), [TimeToast](#), [Capzles](#), and [xTimeline](#) are a few free examples that are currently available to educators and students.)

Technological Resources:

Access to [ADAH website](#), specifically to the [Alabama History Timeline](#). (You can obtain additional letters from the ADAH website, if more are necessary or desired.)

Background/Preparation:

- The student should know the following: The 4 C's of the Civil War: *Cause*, *Course*, *Consequence(s)*, and *Characters*. (This lesson should come at the end of the study of the Civil War so that the students are able to complete the timeline at the end of lesson.)

Procedures/Activities:

Engagement/Motivation Activity: “Just One Minute” – Take one minute and, using a yellow *Student Notes* for each event, write down as many of the important events that happened in the Civil War as you can recall.

Step 1	Have students share their lists orally while the teacher or another student should write them on the board. Be sure that they do not crumple or throw away their <i>Student Notes</i> after sharing. After all students have shared, discuss the listed events. Are there any surprises or points that need to be clarified or explained further? (10 minutes)
Step 2	Have students take their <i>Student Notes</i> and, using their text or notes, identify the date on which each item occurred. Once this is done, ask students to place their <i>Student Notes</i> onto the butcher paper timeline; these events should be placed either above the line or below it, but not both. When students are working on the next step, the teacher can remove redundant <i>Student Notes</i> . (10 – 15 minutes)
Step 3	Were there any events which took place in Alabama? Probably not (aside from location of first Confederate Capital). Share with students that even though Alabama was fairly removed from the main battlegrounds, there were several events which took place in this state. Have students get into groups of three (3) and distribute the events identified from the Alabama History Timeline (included below) so that each group has two (2) or three (3) events. (2 – 3 minutes)

Step 4	Each group is to read its events and be prepared to share the pertinent information with the whole class. Students , using the <i>Student Notes</i> , should also put a year and a title to each of their events. There will be one event per note. (10 minutes)
Step 5	Call on groups to share their pieces of Alabama history; have them do this in chronological order. Direct the group who has the earliest event to share its event first. After they share an item, they should take the pink <i>Student Notes</i> to the butcher paper timeline and place it in the appropriate position. Alabama events should be placed on the opposite side of the line from the national Civil War events. (20 – 25 minutes)
Step 6	Have students get back into their groups (or you could put them into different groups). You may say, “Now the events we’ve looked at until now could be thought of as the ‘Big Picture’. I want you to take time now to examine some of the ‘Little Pictures,’ the events from ordinary citizens’ lives. Some of you will get letters from soldiers, others will get a woman’s perspective. All of the letters are written from or to Alabamians during the Civil War. As a group, you need to read the letter(s) and then be prepared to discuss it, as we did previously. Remember your <i>Student Notes</i> should have a title (and a location if it is not part of the title) and also a date which you’ll put on the blue <i>Student Notes</i> .” (2 – 3 minutes)
Step 7	Distribute letter (s) to each group along with the blue <i>Student Notes</i> . Monitor and assist groups as they read, discuss and analyze the letters and decide on the important information to share with the class. The context of the letters will be an important detail to include. Have students present their letters to the class.
Step 8	Once all groups have presented, they should place their <i>Student Notes</i> onto the timeline – these can be on either side of the line. When finished, the class will have created a more complete timeline with vantage points including the national, state, and individual levels.

Assessment Strategies:

Teacher monitoring of the discussion, date identification, analysis of components. Or each group could submit a timeline reflecting the class timeline.

Extension:

- 1.) Students seeking further exploration of the topic can be referred to the ADAH website. A project could be created requiring students to choose an individual and read a certain number of letters and create a collage reflecting that person’s experience.
- 2.) Students can create a map showing the journey that Thomas Warrick took during his time as a Confederate soldier.

Remediation:

Students experiencing difficulties with the class atmosphere in recalling items and creating the timeline can create their own timeline using their text book. The Alabama events can be presented in chronological fashion.

Accommodation:

Any necessary accommodations to aid student learning can be adjusted as needed by the teacher. It might be necessary to prepare new transcriptions with corrected spelling for students with poor reading skills.

Modification:

Any necessary modifications to aid student learning can be adjusted as needed by the teacher. It might be necessary to prepare new transcriptions with corrected spelling for students with poor reading skills.

Civil War Related Dates from the [Alabama History Timeline](#):

January 4, 1861: A full week before Alabama secedes from the Union, Gov. A. B. Moore orders the seizure of federal military installations within the state. By the end of the next day Alabama troops controlled Fort Gaines, Fort Morgan, and the U.S. Arsenal at Mount Vernon.

January 11, 1861: The Alabama Secession Convention passes an Ordinance of Secession, declaring Alabama a "Sovereign and Independent State." By a vote of 61-39, Alabama becomes the fourth state to secede from the Union.

February 4, 1861: Delegates from six states that had recently seceded from the Union meet in Montgomery to establish the Confederate States of America. Four days later this provisional Confederate Congress, comprising representatives of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, organized the Confederacy with the adoption of a provisional constitution.

February 18, 1861: After being welcomed to Montgomery with great fanfare, Jefferson Davis is inaugurated as president of the Confederate States of America on the portico of the Alabama capitol. Davis, a former U.S. senator from Mississippi, lived in Montgomery until April, when the Confederate government was moved from Montgomery to its new capital of Richmond, Virginia.

February-May, 1861: Montgomery serves as C.S.A. capital until move to Richmond, Virginia.

March 4, 1861: The first Confederate flag is raised over the Alabama capitol at 3:30 PM by Letitia Tyler, granddaughter of former U.S. president John Tyler. The flag, which flew on a flagpole by the capitol clock, was not the Confederate battle flag, but the "First National Pattern," also known as the stars and bars.

March 11, 1861: The Confederate Congress, meeting in Montgomery, adopts a permanent constitution for the Confederate States of America to replace the provisional constitution adopted the previous month. The seceded states then ratified the essentially conservative document, which was based largely on the United States Constitution.

May 21, 1861: The Confederate Congress meets for the last time in Montgomery. Montgomery served as capital for just three months, from February to May 1861. After Virginia joined the Confederacy in April 1861, leaders urged the move to the larger city of Richmond, which was closer to the military action.

April 1, 1862: As the first year of the Civil War comes to a close, an order by Gov. John Gill Shorter prohibiting the distillation of hard liquors in Alabama goes into effect. Shorter was willing to make some exceptions, but was determined to prevent distillers from "converting food necessary to sustain our armies and people into poison to demoralize and destroy them."

July 10, 1862: Forty men from the hill country of northwest Alabama sneak into Decatur to join the Union army, prompting Gen. Abel Streight to mount an expedition to the south to recruit more volunteers. With the help of an impassioned speech from fervent Unionist Christopher Sheats of Winston County, a center of anti-secessionist sentiment, Streight added another 150 Alabamians to his force.

March 17, 1863: John Pelham, a 24-year-old Confederate hero from Calhoun County, is mortally wounded on the battlefield at Kelley's Ford, Virginia. He died the next day and his body lay in state in the capitol at Richmond before being taken to Alabama for burial. Pelham's skill and daring as an artillery commander distinguished him from the outset of the Civil War and earned him the nickname "the gallant Pelham" from Robert E. Lee.

May 2, 1863: Sixteen-year-old Emma Sansom becomes a Confederate heroine when she helps Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest cross Black Creek near Gadsden as he pursues Union forces led by Col. A.D. Streight.

February 17, 1864: The *H.L. Hunley*, a Confederate submarine built in Mobile, becomes the first submarine in history to sink an enemy ship. After torpedoing the USS *Housatonic* in Charleston Harbor the *Hunley* never returned to port--until its recovery in August 2000.

June 19, 1864: The CSS *Alabama*, captained by Mobile's Raphael Semmes, is sunk at the end of a fierce naval engagement with the USS *Kearsarge* off the coast of Cherbourg, France. The *Alabama* had docked there for maintenance and repairs after 22 months of destroying northern commerce on the high seas during the Civil War.

August 5, 1864: The Battle of Mobile Bay begins. U.S. Admiral David Farragut, with a force of fourteen wooden ships, four ironclads, 2,700 men, and 197 guns, assaulted greatly outnumbered Confederate defenses guarding the approach to Mobile Bay. Farragut's victory removed Mobile as a center of blockade-running and freed Union troops for service in Virginia.

June 21, 1865: President Andrew Johnson appoints Lewis Parsons provisional governor of Alabama.

Primary Sources from the [ADAH Digital Archives](#)

(To access these letters, all of which have transcribed copies following the original letter, hit "Ctrl" and click on the link. A brief description of letter is included. Some transcriptions are attached to the lesson. A few of the letters use "cross hatching," which is the technique of turning a page 90 degrees when writing to fill another page of text in the same space. This method of writing letters, was used to save paper and is very challenging to read.)

Thomas Warrick to Martha Warrick (He is a soldier/volunteer.)

[Mar 9, 1861](#): During the war, Warrick served in the Coosa Home Guards, as a private in Company C of the 34th Alabama Infantry. In the letter he discusses life in camp, especially the delay in receiving the allowance the soldiers were promised: "We lack 16 men of having our company compleet [sic]. We have not drawn our Bounty yet, nor will not untill [sic] our company is compleeted [sic]." He also mentions that he hopes to visit home soon: "The Captain has promised me a furlough to come home - and as soon as I draw my bounty I will come home and finish the house unless it is finished when I come."

[July 22, 1862](#): In the letter Warrick describes life in the camp (discussing food, sickness, deaths) and gives news of mutual acquaintances. He mentions that "There is a heap of talk of peace some say we will be home in two months but I can not say how long it will be." He asks Martha to "write how crops are and whether you have had any rain or not...write how my hogs and cows are getting along." He notes that the "Crops look very sorry out here." A transcript of the letter is included. [Original spelling retained.]

[Aug 11, 1862](#): In the letter he discusses his unit's new camp ("we are stationed in a very nice place - good blue limestone water in abundance") and their journey to it: "We were treated very benevolently as we came through Alabama. The women gave us plenty of good things to eat such as water melons, grapes, figs, tomatoes, butter milk, loaf bred and boild ham, we had a very pleasant trip of it after we left Montgomery." He asks his wife about conditions at home and adds that in another regiment there were "three men poisoned on butter milk." A transcript of the letter is included. [Original spelling retained.]

[Jan 13, 1863](#): In the letter he discusses the battle at Murfreesboro, describing battlefield conditions and casualties: "I don't see how I asscape the 31 day of December...I went through as big a battle as ever was fough we lost 5 thousan men they yankey loss was twenty five thousand kill and wounded it commence at 6 o clock in the morning and lasted till darke and was renud next morning...we lay in the line of battle 6 days and it rand all...the time and we was aloud no fier we sufferd very much with cold." Despite the Union victory, he is pleased with his regiment's performance because the men "fought like tiguers all day." During the battle he lost all the extra clothing he had, and he doesn't know how he will get more. At the end of the letter he adds a note to his brother-in-law. [Original spelling retained.]

[Mar 22, 1863](#): In the letter he discusses his desire to go home: "...it is rumerd here in camps that the yanky is falling back to Nashville...I am in hops that it is so and I don't cear if they will all go home and stay there for I am getting tyred of a camp lif but I am in hops that it wount be long untill I may bee a free man a gain." He has learned of Martha's plans to visit him, but he discourages her because of small pox and body lice ("they are as bad as old red aunts"). He also mentions that there is one woman in the camp, and he gives the price of food in the area. At the end of the letter he adds a note to his brother-in-law. [Original spelling retained.]

[July 26, 1863](#): In the letter Warrick discourages his wife from visiting the camp because of the difficult living conditions: "I want to see you very bad but I wold rather you would not com here fore it is a very bad place for a woman we hav no tents to shelter out of the rain we hav to take the weather as it comes." She had asked him to have his "likeness taken, " but he cannot afford to have a photograph made right now: "...but when I git plenty of money I will try to hav my Dagaritype taken & send it to you." [Original spelling retained.]

[Aug 9, 1863](#): In the letter he mentions the lack of food in the camp, and then discusses his feelings about the war: "...we could get along very well if we got enough to eat...You know what a great luxury fruit is, and how much a soldier can enjoy it, and here we cant get any without paying enormous prices. Such is the fate of a Confederate soldier. If we ever or those who live to survive this cruel war and return to their homes and families again, will know how to appreciate peace and happiness...But there is no telling when this unwholly war will close. I trust not before a great while, though." [Original spelling retained.]

[Dec 10, 1863](#): In the letter describes the battle in Chattanooga on November 24 and 25: "...the yankes drove us from our ditches and takend them from us tho it was a very hard fight for som time and at last we had to give up the ditches...and fall back to the top of the hill...we was all so tiard that we cod not doo any thing for some time and they came to the top of the hill and they drove us from...our batry and takend several of our company, or kild them." He believes that only darkness saved his unit from capture: "We lost 14 in this company and 17 in the redgment...and if it had not ben so near night I doo beleave that they wod a capturd us every one." [Original spelling retained.]

[April 11, 1864](#): In the letter he tells of five men who are going to be executed for desertion: "...that is mity harde that they have to shut so meny of our men for deserting but they will ceep dooing of it when they no at the same time that they will shoot them if they doo it." He also discusses the possibility of getting a new recruit to take his place in the company. [Original spelling retained.]

[July 2, 1864](#): In the letter he discusses the Confederate victory at Marietta: "We giv the yanks an other thrashing las Monday kill about 8 thousand and there was 5 hundred ambulances seen at one time caring off the wounded...we are expecting them every day to try us again if they do they will get hurt again for we hav good fortifications and feel sure we will whip them again." He tells her that the army's spirits are good and that he wants to hear how the livestock and crops are doing. At the end of the letter he adds a note to his father. [Original spelling retained.]

[July 31, 1864](#): In the letter he discusses the heavy casualties suffered during recent battles in Atlanta: "I hav bin through 2 of as hard fights as I ever saw we fought Friday 22 and Thursday 28...the first day we lost 112 the secon day we lost 75...we lost a greate many men for mity little gain." He also mentions the destruction of the railroad, which has interrupted mail delivery. [Original spelling retained.]

[Nov 13, 1864](#): In the letter he discusses the soldiers' move to winter quarters: "...our intentions was to go into middle Tennessee when we started but as the wether is bad and it late I hardly think we will go much funder." . [Original spelling retained.]

[Jan 12, 1865](#): In the letter he discusses the possibility of getting a furlough soon, and he mentions a recent unsuccessful campaign: "I shall not attempt to giv you a detail of our campeign suffice it to say it has bin bad." He also refers to the financial difficulties everyone is experiencing: "...times is hard with us as well as with you we hav to by som rashing to make out...I hav but little money but I hope they will pay us soon so I can help you som." [Original spelling retained.]

[Feb 27, 1865](#): In the letter he writes that "we are cut off from our command." There are rumors that they will return to Montgomery and that General Lee's army is leaving Richmond, but "we here so much I cant tel when I here the truth." He feels that "times looks dim at presant." [Original spelling retained.]

Martha Warrick to Thomas Warrick

(During the war, Thomas Warrick served in the Coosa Home Guards, as a private in Company C of the 34th Alabama Infantry.)

[Aug 13, 1863](#): In the letter Martha Warrick writes her husband to tell him about the difficulties at home. Martha tells Thomas she was "gla[d] to her tha[t] yor was spard thought the batle and I doe hope that the lord will be will yor gide thoughte war." A transcript of the letter is included. [Original spelling retained.]

[Jan 20, 1864](#): In the letter Martha tells Thomas how much he is missed, and she refers to difficulties at home: "...I am in hopes that you will get to come home and then will see the condision tha I am in and then you will see how I doue sufer." A transcript of the letter is included. [Original spelling retained.]

Anna Dent to Hubert Dent

(At the start of the Civil War, Hubert Dent was a 1st lieutenant of the Eufaula Rifles, which became Company B of the 1st Alabama Infantry; he was eventually promoted to captain and commanded Dent's Battery, formerly Robertson's Battery. These letters are from his wife, Anna.)

[Unknown Date](#): In the letter Anna reminds her husband about the upcoming national day of prayer: "I hope the people all over the Confederacy may be likewise engaged - and I have faith to believe our prayers will be answered." She also expresses her desire for peace: "Oh I do long to see this war ended - I feel like nothing else...will seem like trouble to me again." ([Transcription 1 attached, page 1](#))

[June 3, 1861](#): In the letter Anna discusses church attendance ("I went to church for I could not bear the idea of staying by myself"); her loneliness and desire to see her husband ("I get so sad that I often cry but it makes me feel better"); money management ("Ma says that I am getting to be so very stingy"); and news of mutual acquaintances. A transcript is included.

[Sept 21, 1863](#): In the letter Anna mentions that she has not received letters from her husband recently ("I ought not probably to expect letters, as I see by the papers that all communication is stopped"), and she refers to her "great deal interest as to the result of the impending battle" (probably referring to Chickamauga). She then discusses spiritual matters, acknowledging her own weaknesses and encouraging her husband to remain dedicated: "...sometimes I feel right troubled when I think of the temptations to which a christian is exposed in the army, about you my Dear I do feel anxious sometimes, but I know how firm and decided you are, and I believe that you want to be a christian, but with your associates...it will require a great deal of watchfulness and prayer to keep your heart right in the sight of God." ([Transcription 2 attached, pages 2-3](#))

[Sept 25, 1863](#): In the letter Anna discusses the Battle of Chickamauga and expresses her relief that her husband has survived: "When we heard Tuesday morning that a terrible battle was raging in western Georgia - well I can never describe my feelings - and a thousand times did I think something terrible might befall you...although I have always been anxious about you when I knew that you were in battle, yet never have I felt as I did this time, and often in imagination did I see Pa coming us, bringing some dreadful news - but thank God this terrible blow has not come upon me, my great anxiety for you, kept me from being much elated with the news of our great victory, I do hope that we have destroyed a good part of their army, but it makes me feel sad to think of the many noble lives sacrificed on that terrible battlefield." ([Transcription 3 attached, page 4](#))

[Nov 24, 1864](#): In the letter Anna describes a package she is sending to him, which includes clothing ("You remember you had two curtains in your office I had them taken down...to make shirts for you"), a toothbrush ("If there is one thing I like to see pretty and nice it is teeth, and yours used to suit me exactly"), food ("Ma says that fruit is very scarce or she would have sent you more"), and a candle ("so that you will not have as an excuse for not writing to me that you have no light"). ([Transcription 4 attached, pages 5-8](#))

Hubert Dent to Anna Dent

(At the start of the Civil War, Hubert Dent was a 1st lieutenant of the Eufaula Rifles, which became Company B of the 1st Alabama Infantry; he was eventually promoted to captain and commanded Dent's Battery, formerly Robertson's Battery. These letters are to his wife, Anna.)

[April 9, 1862](#): In the letter Dent describes his participation in the battle of Shiloh; he discusses both his observations and feelings during the fight: "I did feel like death was staring me in the face every minute while going up but as soon as I got to work with my guns, I forgot all about Minnie balls and danger and became

thoroughly excited and then I could have gone anywhere, or faced any danger without the slightest quiver...we took a position near where the enemy had lost a gun, and there lay three or four dead Yankees with as many horses and in getting into position, our wheels run over a dead man and mashed him into jelly. I had no time there for picking roads. I was surprised to find how indifferent I felt, to the...suffering and death going on all around me." He also notes the things he "captured in the Yankee camp." He concludes that letter by stating that "I have often expressed a desire to see a great battle my curiosity is now thoroughly gratified."

Jun 28, 1862: In the letter he discusses mutual acquaintances and family members (mentioning one woman in Maryland who was "arrested...for communicating with the rebels"); conditions and health in camp; the possibility of obtaining a furlough; military medical practices ("these surgeons are too fond of cutting off limbs"); troop movements; and a report of a recent Confederate success near Richmond ("I shall look anxiously for the particulars. We have so often been successful at first and then lost all the fruits of victory that I shall wait to hear more before I throw up my hat and shout hurrah!"). He also addresses the possibility of European intervention: "I believe that if McLellan [sic] is whipped before Richmond that it will postpone instead of hastening foreign intervention - certainly as far as England is concerned My idea is that Europe wishes to see a final separation of this country - but that she wants both countries to be badly used up before peace is made - hence I think England would be more apt to interfere to prevent our subjugation than any thing else - as long as we seem able to hold our own she will 'let us alone.' The war I think is certain to last some years." A transcript is included.

Jan 27, 1863: In the letter he discusses the weather ("It is cold muddy disagreeable and nearly every thing else that is bad"); illness and conditions in camp; a ball recently hosted by artillery officers ("Richardson has been giving me a glowing description of the ball...From what he says of it I do not think I would like to see any of my Lady friends at such a place"); and his predictions about the duration of the war ("I have come to the conclusion that the war will last at least through Lincoln's administration"). He also mentions that "Congress is about to repeal the twenty negro exemption law" ("It will bring in some of the Eufaula fellows") and that a lot of men are dissatisfied with their commanding officers ("It would not surprise me if there would be a change here in the head of the army"). [The original pages were extremely faded, so these images have been enhanced to bring out the text.]

Sept 25, 1863: In the letter Dent discusses the Battle of Chickamauga, which he thinks "will be one of the severest and most decided of the whole war." He is pleased with his performance during the fight: "The company seem to be very proud of their captain and of course that pleases me very much - This you know is the first fight in which I have led them as commander and I think they have plenty of confidence in me now if they did not before - I have been complimented highly by some Genl officers and I think my Battery will be favorably mentioned in the official reports of the battle." He also mentions some of the things he gathered from the Yankee camp, as well as "a couple of balls one cut out of my horse & one out of my blankets which I want to send home as slight mementoes from my Yankee friends."

Mary Ann Hall

(Written by Mary Ann ("Molly") Hall who lived in Portland, Alabama
to family in Connecticut or New York)

Nov 1863 - May 1864: In the first letter, written November 17, 1863, Mary Ann sends her sister family news, mentioning the death of one son and the military service of another. She also alludes to the "flag-of-truce" system for delivering mail between the North and South, in which correspondence was read by censors: "I am so pleased to have an opportunity of writing you a sealed letter. I sometimes think it is only an aggravation to write just one page and that for the public eye." In the second letter, written April 28, 1864, Mary Ann explains to her father that she began writing eight months before but did not have a chance to send the letter. She sends news of her son, Alex, who is in the Confederate

army; she worries that he will die as her other son did ("Alex K is very tall and thin and it will not surprise me if he goes in the same way that Edward did") but admits that "His army Life evidently agrees with him and he may live for many years." She also mentions that the family is doing well at home: "We have never suffered at Portland for any thing. I have Tea Coffee Flour sugar &c enough to last me two years now. We have eight Cows plenty of milk and butter Bacon and Beet ect [sic] And I have all the clothes I need for two or three years - for once I have looked out for myself."

[Jan 5, '1865](#): In the letter she discusses unreliable mail delivery; her sons' experiences in the Confederate army ("They never murmur or complain - laugh over their corn bread, tough Beef & tentless bed, and seems to realize how much better off they are than the majority"); local social activities; the health of her family and acquaintances; and civilians' disillusionment with the war ("I know hundreds of people southerners as well as northerners that would leave the country to day if they could"). She also mentions her own attitude toward the war: "I must confess that your rebel proclivities exceed mine for I...should much sooner think of leaving the [Confederacy] than trying to get into it. My husband and children and all my interest are here, and it is my home, so that I am bound to stay and see the Drama out, but a fearful one it is." At the end of the letter is a note to her parents.

[Page from a letter from Anna to S. H. Dent]

I send you two new papers. I
want you to read the piece marked
and tell me if you don't think
it is a good thing. Remember
the day and the hour Love, I will
and not only we, but I hope the
people all over the Confederacy
may be likewise engaged. and I
have faith to believe our prayers
will be answered. Let nothing prevent
you from doing as is said. Remem
ber next Monday at 12 o'clock to send up an
_____ fervent prayer to Heaven for Peace.

[new page]

Oh I do long to see this war ended.
I feel like nothing else no small
thing will seem like trouble to
me again. Dearest is there any
prospect of you coming home
soon – & visit or if until the
give you leave—if you don't some
of this frosty morning or evening
_____ can times the _____
you may be astonished by seeing me
Wouldn't you be surprised.
What would you do Love—send
me right back—if I will come
Goodbye Nan

Eufaula, Ala
Sept. 21st 1863

My dear dear Hubert,

I do feel so anxious and troubled about you, and although I have very little idea that this letter will ever reach you, still in writing to you is the only way in which I can find any relief— Not one moment passes that I do not think of you and imagine a thousand dangers to which you may be exposed. Oh! if I could hear from you, my Darling, what a comfort it would be, but it is one week last Friday since I have heard one word from you. I ought not probably to expect letters, as I see by the papers that all communication is stopped, yet I cannot but hope that you may find an opportunity and occasionally I will hear from you. I know Dearest that it grieves you just as much that you cannot write as it does me that I

[new page]

cannot get letters. I feel a great deal of interest as the result of the impending battle. I do believe though that we will be victorious. God grant that we may. We see very little from the army but that little is encouraging. We we [sic] do hear that the battle is fought, is over, how many anxious hearts will there be, anxious yet needing to hear from loved ones. Oh! my Darling it seems to me that it would break my heart to hear bad news from you. I pray my Dearest as I never prayed before, that God will spare you to me, Yes my ____ I vow is a prayer for your safety— May my prayers be granted, I try to place you in God's hands— to take you to himself or let you still live as he sees best but I was afraid that I do not feel as I ought— for the words spare him spare my husband to me are continually coming from my lips— but I do wish that I could

[new page]

have one letter from you telling me all your feelings. And hear that you are willing if it is God's will to lay down your life—these are the only things that give us any comforts when those we love are taken from us— but I have faith to believe that you will come through safely— and if you should I feel that the debt of gratitude to God could never never be repaid, but I should feel more then ever like devoting my entire self to him. My darling I sometimes I feel right troubled when I think of the temptations to which a Christian is exposed in the Army, which you my Dear I do feel anxious sometimes, but I know how fine and decided you are, and I believe that you want to be a Christian. but with your associates and connections, it will require a great deal of watchfulness and prayer to keep your heart right in the sight of God— and although I am much younger than you are

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and need your advice often, yet I know that you will listen to my opinion. Although I am surrounded by the pure and holy associations of home and a Christian community— yet I find with the slightest neglect of duty or the least relaxations of effort to live a pure and holy life—that I am going further away from God and I believe one step more—and the whole comfort of our blessed religion would be gone. By God's grace I intend to live a holier life—and Darling I want You to resolve the same vow to him to whom all hearts are open (for we can all be better Christians than we are) and let us go hand in hand in this journey to a better land— We will both be happier, now in this life.

How it would gladden my heart to hear from you. I shall hope, though I may be disappointed. I see nothing to make any _____ or disponding news—and I am _____ greatly cheered at the news from all quarters. May this unholy strife soon end.

{crosshatching on the first page}

Much, much love to my

Dearest from your own Nannie,

The family are all well except Maria's

baby, she is better

Write us often as you can, Nan.

Eufaula, Ala
Sept 25th 1863

Oh! my Dearest how thankful I am that you have passed through this battle safely. God has been merciful and kind to us. I have been perfectly wretched the early part of this week. In fact ever since I left, I have been troubled and anxious, and I never prayed for you my Darling as I have the last few weeks. When we heard Tuesday morning that a terrible battle was raging in norther Georgia, well I can never describe my feelings—and a thousand times did I think something terrible might befall you, Tuesday Wednesday and until noon yesterday, were days of agony to me, and night brought no rest. I can't account for it, although I have always been anxious about you when I knew that you were in battle, yet never have I felt as I did this time,
[new page]

and often in imagination did I see Pa coming [to] us, bringing some dreadful news— but thank God this terrible blow has not come upon me. My great anxiety for you, kept me from being much elated with the news of our great victory. I do hope that we have destroyed a good part of their army, but it make me feel sad to think of the many noble lives sacrificed on that terrible battle field. Several prominent men from Columbus are killed—not a word has been heard from any one in the Eufaula Artillery. I think this is very strange as most of them have friends here. Mr. Sylvester is expected home this evening slightly wounded. I have heard a good many say that they do not mind their friends receiving slight wounds, so they can have them home with them, but my Dearest I was oh so glad when I heard that you
[new page]

were unhurt. You must thank Dr. Thomason for me for sending the dispatch. I am glad to know that he is safe. I supposed that George had escaped unhurt too as he would have mentioned him. I shall look anxiously for a letter from you. Annie had a real fit of hysteria when the dispatch came. All of us were frightened. Mamie saw Pa coming some time before our dinner hour, and she went seeing after Ma who was in the back part of the house, just as pale as she could be. Ma came up the passage just as Pa got in the front door, then I saw him for the first time, when I looked up he was holding both of his hands up and saying that he had a dispatch. My first thought was that you were killed and I said, Tell me what it is.

Pa said Good news— Oh! my Dearest I was so relieved, Annie commenced laughing and crying together, and I think most
[new page]

joined her crying before a great while. I never had such a thnkful feeling in my life. How I would like to sit down by you to-day and tell you all my feelings, and hear you talk. I had two letters from you Tuesday, both from LaFayette. Uncle William has not heard from Willie since the 17th— he had been in two fights then, but was not hurt. If they are anywhere near you inquire for Willie—he is in the 3rd Georgia Cavalry, but I do not know his Captain's name. Write me soon Dearest, tell me all about the battle—I hope that all our friends escaped. I wish that we could hear something more from the Army up to Tuesday is the latest news. Some of the papers say that Rosecrans has crossed the river—others think that is not so.

I must say Good by now—All your friends felt anxious about you here and rejoiced with me when I got the dispatch. Much much love from your devoted wife Annie

Eufaula Nov. 24

My Dearest,

Don't be surprised if this is an uncommonly uninteresting letter, for I am very stupid to-night. Mr. Gaston leaves in the morning. The box is packed and sent off, so all I have to do is write my letters. If you have received the letter sent by Mr. Macon(?) you will get the box yourself, and then get your own things. I was very particular to put the names in yours and George's clothes. I thought what little we had for him—I had better write his name so everybody could see it for I know that you would hate to give them to him before the other, where there was nothing for them. There is a pair of _____ shoes for each of you wrapped in your pants. We made a few pairs for the company. Write us if they do any good and we

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will make a lot. In looking around we find enough cloth for two overshirts which we need also. They are not very nice looking but I reckon they will keep some half entire body warm You can divide what little there is as you think best. We put two pairs of socks in George's pockets. You must look in your pockets and you will find something. I thought you might need a toothbrush and dentifrice if you have another don't throw this away for they are scarce things. I hope you use your

frequently. If there is one thing
I like to see pretty and nice it
is teeth, and yours used to
suit me exactly. Honey I want
to see you so much. I have had
some right funny dreams about
you lately. I put two pairs
of gloves in your _____ pocket
you can take either pair you
like and give the others to George.
neither of them are very nice.
It is some of the wool I had to
[new page]
bet so hard for. The rice (which
Pa has been _____ about and
since it was sent because he
didn't think was very nice) is for your
own use. So also is the
little fruit and sweet potatoes.
Ma says that fruit is very scarce
or she would have sent you
more.. I wish we could have sent
you something nice but we were
afraid to pack anything in with
the clothes. Honey you mustn't
let your washing man wet this
soap in your clothes for it will
take the color out if it is colored,
put the soap in the water
and wash the clothes in the
soap suds—
You remember you had two
curtains in your office I had
them taken down since _____
to make shirts for you if I
couldn't get anything else—did
you think it would be well
to make them and send in
the company the first opportu-
nity— I like to have forgotten it
If you see something very
odd looking, like a bottle and
like a candle it is a candle

I sent you so that you
[new page]
will not have as an excuse
for not writing to me that you
have no light. You will
to watch it and not let it
burn down before the mouth
of the bottle. I will have another
for you when that burns out
if you like it. Tell Lige Isey(?)
that every stitch of his pants
were made by Ada. I reckon she
wouldn't thank me for telling it
but she out to be proud of it I
think—I shows how sweet she
is. I saw Bill McTyler (?) this evening
he looked quite handsome. I
should like to see you in a nice
gray uniform. He told me that
when he saw you, that you were
the ugliest man in Ky. I told him
that you must have changed
wonderfully since I saw you if
that was so he thought probably
when you were _____ up that
you might look a little better
he told me that he was going to
see his little daughter. It seemed
right pitiful. I cant help _____
_____him. Now if you went in
the _____ – Oh! Dearest do tell me
about that lady correspondent. I
am crazy to hear. I shant think
[written across top of first page]
of anything else
and will write
you a huge letter
Little Eddie has been sick a
_____ but is about
well again he
is such an in-
trusting little
thing I do
wish you

could see him.
I was so glad
that your
boots were
finished in
time to direct
in this box. I
know that you are
needing them
Much love Nannie